

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent containing a polydimethylsiloxane copolymer, ~~said the~~ polydimethylsiloxane copolymer including a long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more, wherein the copolymer does not include a fluorinated alkyl group.

16. (Currently Amended) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein the weight ratio of ~~said the~~ long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more to the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is not less than 10% by weight nor more than 42% by weight.

17. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein, when manufacturing the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer, the weight ratio of a vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more to the entire monomers used in a copolymerization reaction is not less than 15% by weight nor more than 55% by weight.

18. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, further containing a binder made of a resin.

19. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane graft copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more with a polydimethylsiloxane compound containing a polymerizable vinyl group at one end thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

21. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 16, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

22. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 17, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

23. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 18, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

24. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein a silicon component is contained only in molecules of the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer.

25. (Currently Amended) A thermal transfer recording medium, comprising:
a substrate film having the front surface and the back surface thereof;
an ink layer formed on the front surface of the substrate film; and
a heat-resistant lubricous protective layer formed on the back surface of the substrate film,
wherein ~~said the~~ heat-resistant lubricous protective layer includes a polydimethylsiloxane copolymer containing a long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more, wherein the copolymer does not include a fluorinated alkyl group.

26. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the weight ratio of said long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more to the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is not less than 10% by weight nor more than 42% by weight.

27. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein said heat-resistant lubricous protective layer is formed by applying a heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent containing the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer, said polydimethylsiloxane copolymer being manufactured such that the weight ratio of a vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more to the entire monomers used in a copolymerization reaction is not less than 15% by weight nor more than 55% by weight in manufacturing the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer.

28. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the heat-resistant lubricous protective layer contains a binder made of a resin.

29. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane graft copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more with a polydimethylsiloxane compound containing a polymerizable vinyl group at one end thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

31. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

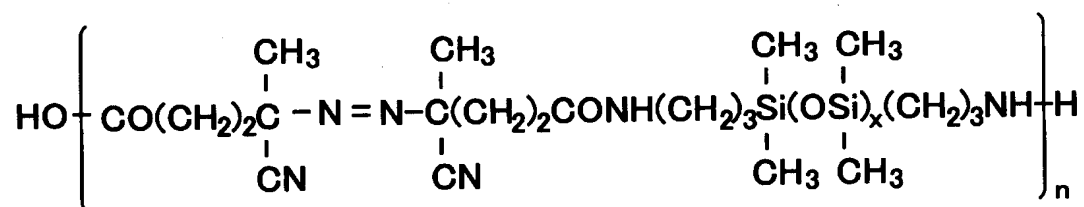
32. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 27, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

33. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 28, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

34. (Previously Presented) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the heat-resistant lubricous protective layer contains a silicon component only in molecules of the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer.

35. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 20, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer obtained by copolymerization of

(a) an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide represented by the formula



wherein x is an integer from 10 to 300, and n is an integer from 1 to 50;

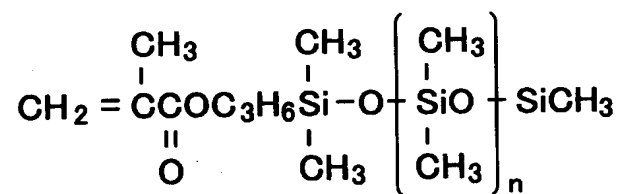
(b) a vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more, the long chain alkyl group being one or more selected from the group consisting of lauryl methacrylate, stearyl methacrylate and behenyl methacrylate; and

(c) a vinyl monomer being one or more selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, iso-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, iso-butyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, tetrahydrofurfuryl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, iso-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, iso-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethyl hexyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, tetrahydrofurfuryl methacrylate, methacrylate, methyl vinyl ether, ethyl vinyl ether, n-propyl vinyl ether, n-butyl vinyl ether, iso-butyl vinyl ether, styrene, α -methyl styrene, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, ethylene, propylene, isoprene, chloroprene, butadiene, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, maleic anhydride,

crotonic acid, atropic acid, citraconic acid, acrylamide, methacrylamide, N,N-methylol acrylamide, N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, diacetone acrylamide, methylacrylamide glycolate methyl ether, N,N-dimethyl amino ethyl methacrylate, N,N-diethyl amino ethyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethyl amino propyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethyl amino ethyl acrylate, N,N-diethyl amino ethyl acrylate, and N,N-dimethyl amino propyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, glycidyl methacrylate, glycidyl allyl ether, 2-hydroxy ethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxy ethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxy propyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxy propyl acrylate, 4-hydroxy butyl acrylate, allyl alcohol, reaction products between Cardura E and any one of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, and crotonic acid, vinyl pyrrolidone, vinyl pyridine, vinyl carbazole, γ -methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane, γ -methacryloxypropyltriethoxysilane, γ -methacryloxypropylmethyldimethoxysilane, γ -methacryloxypropylmethyldiethoxysilane, γ -methacryloxypropylmethoxyethoxysilane, vinyltrimethoxysilane, and vinyltriethoxysilane.

36. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 19, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane graft copolymer obtained by copolymerization of

(a) a polydimethylsiloxane compound containing a polymerizable vinyl group at one end thereof, represented by the formula



wherein n is an integer from 0 to 64;

(b) a vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more, the long chain alkyl group being one or more selected from the group consisting of lauryl methacrylate, stearyl methacrylate and behenyl methacrylate; and

(c) a vinyl monomer being one or more selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, iso-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, iso-butyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, tetrahydrofurfuryl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, iso-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, iso-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethyl hexyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, tetrahydrofurfuryl methacrylate, methacrylate, methyl vinyl ether, ethyl vinyl ether, n-propyl vinyl ether, n-butyl vinyl ether, iso-butyl vinyl ether, styrene, α -methyl styrene, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, ethylene, propylene, isoprene, chloroprene, butadiene, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, maleic anhydride, crotonic acid, atropic acid, citraconic acid, acrylamide, methacrylamide, N,N-methylol acrylamide, N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, diacetone acrylamide, methylacrylamide glycolate methyl ether, N,N-dimethyl amino ethyl methacrylate, N,N-diethyl amino ethyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethyl amino propyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethyl amino ethyl acrylate, N,N-diethyl amino ethyl acrylate, and N,N-dimethyl amino propyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, glycidyl methacrylate, glycidyl allyl ether, 2-hydroxy ethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxy ethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxy propyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxy propyl acrylate, 4-hydroxy butyl acrylate, allyl alcohol; reaction products between Cardura E (Shell Chemicals, Inc.) and any one of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, and crotonic acid; vinyl pyrrolidone, vinyl pyridine, vinyl carbazole, γ -methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane, γ -methacryloxypropyltriethoxysilane, γ -methacryloxypropylmethyldimethoxysilane, γ -methacryloxypropylmethyldiethoxysilane, γ -methacryloxypropylmethoxyethoxysilane, vinyltrimethoxysilane, and vinyltriethoxysilane.